

#iwill Fund Young Evaluators Network Application Pack

May 2023

Proudly supporting
youth social action



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport



YMCA
GEORGE WILLIAMS
COLLEGE

WHAT IS THE #IWILL FUND?

The #iwill Fund is made possible thanks to a £66 million joint investment from The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to support young people to access high quality social action. The #iwill Fund supports the aims of the #iwill movement - to make involvement in social action a part of life for young people, by recognising the benefit for both young people and their communities.

What is
'Youth Social
Action'?

Youth social action refers to activities that young people do to make a positive difference to others or the environment. There are lots of ways in which young people can take practical action to make a positive difference. It can take place in a range of contexts and can mean formal or informal activities. These include volunteering, fundraising, campaigning or supporting peers.



WHAT IS THE YOUNG EVALUATORS NETWORK?

The Young Evaluators Network (YEN) will be a group of young people who will play a key role in shaping all aspects of the evaluation of the #iwill Fund, from designing research tools to primary data collection and analysis.

The Young Evaluators Network will work with the College to:

- **Learn research and evaluation skills**
During residentials you will learn about different data collection methods, approaches to ethics, designing data collection tools and collecting and analysing data.
- **Work alongside professional evaluators**
Work alongside our team to co-design and lead research
- **Gain opportunities for personal development**
Access skills training, dedicated support, and valuable experience. This may include speaking at meetings, sharing your work and learning at external events, report writing, and sharing blogs and training with others.



Young people's involvement in decision making is important because young people should have a voice within the world they live in. The world we live in is just as important to young people as it is to the older generation that run the world. If we are to change the world and make it a fairer place to live in, we need to hear the voices of the world's young residents.

Just taking part in a project like this evaluation means that young people's voices can be heard and make an impact. If young people have a solid position within projects such as this one, then their voices can and will be listened to. Change has to be brought around by everyone working together.

Django

Young Evaluator, 2021



ABOUT THE EVALUATION

YMCA George Williams College has partnered with Dartington, Ipsos and Renaissi to see if the #iwill Fund has achieved some of the things it set out to.

This evaluation will explore:

- If #iwill Fund projects have made a difference for young people and their communities.
- If support from the #iwill Fund has helped organisations and delivery partners across the #iwill movement.
- The most effective ways for funders and delivery organisations to measure the impact of youth social action.
- If opportunities provided by the #iwill Fund help young people develop their interest in youth social action.
- Some of the ways organisations can demonstrate this over time and what the role of youth voice is in ensuring the quality of youth social action.

What is an evaluation?

Evaluation involves collecting and analysing information (data) about a project or programme to see if it has made a difference.

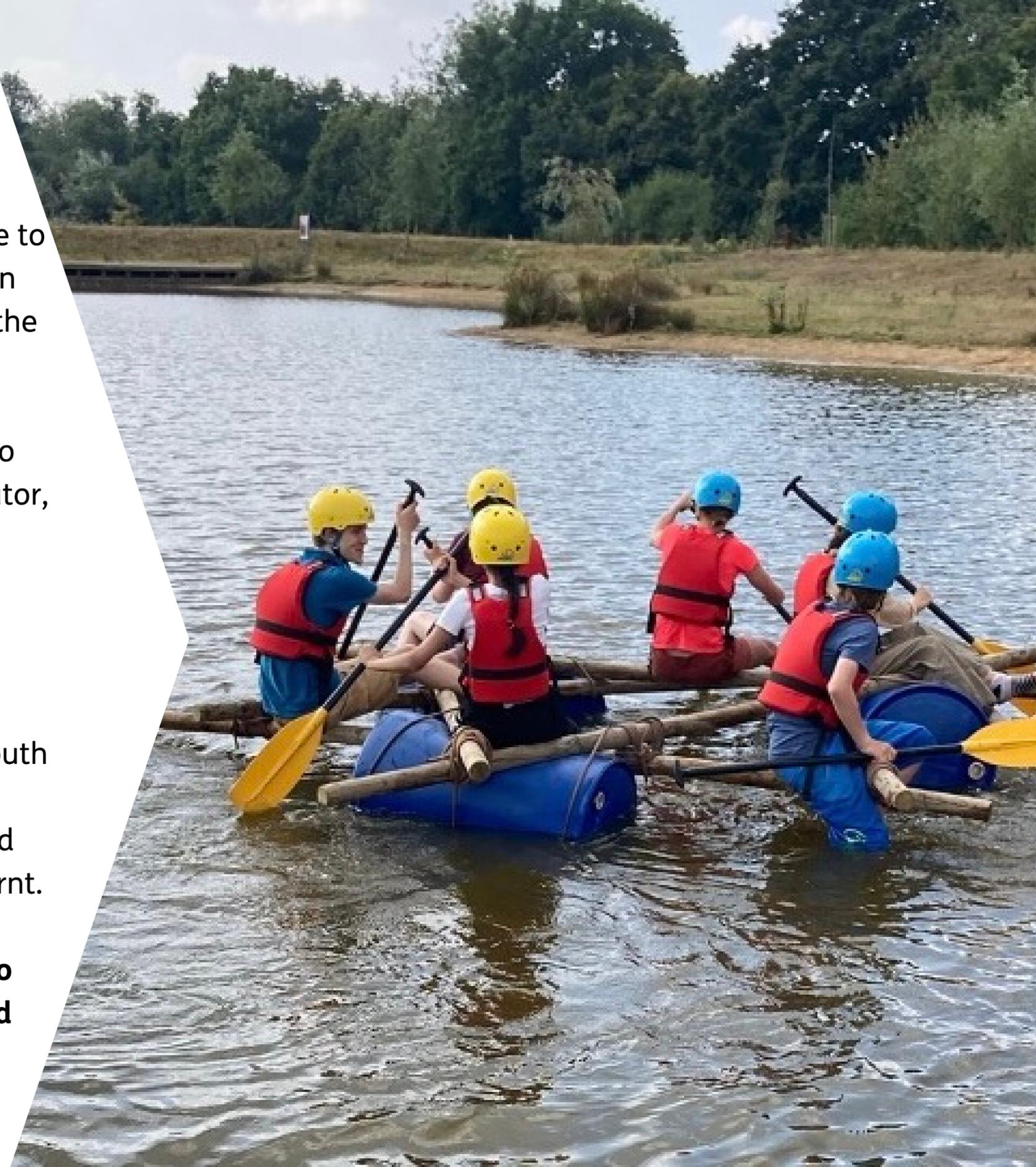
THE ROLE AND PURPOSE OF THE YOUNG EVALUATORS NETWORK

We know that to truly understand the difference the #iwill Fund has made to young people and communities, we need to involve young people. You can help us to ask the right questions, provide new perspectives, and explain the evaluation findings to others.

We are looking for up to 10 young people aged 14-18, when they join, who have direct experience of youth social action activities. As a Young Evaluator, your role will be to:

- Give your views on how the evaluation should be run.
- Work with our team to undertake research, design, and review data collection tools.
- Ask other young people about their experiences of youth voice and youth social action.
- Analyse this information to support the evidence we already have; and
- Give ideas and views on how we can tell people about what we've learnt.

We will organise three residentials for the Young Evaluators Network to provide training, advice, and support to help you do all of the above and also to have lots of fun and make new friends!



WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

The College will support up to ten young people as part of the Young Evaluators Network to help deliver an evaluation of the #iwill Fund. Working with professional evaluators, you will have the opportunity to shape the evaluation tools, collect and analyse data, and influence how we share the evaluation findings.

We're looking for:

A diverse range of young people from across England

Young people aged 14-18

Young people that have been actively involved in youth social action activities



We're particularly interested in hearing from young people who believe in equality and fairness, like to share their ideas, want to learn how to do research and analyse data, enjoy working as part of a team, and want to influence how youth social action is delivered in the future.

The thing that drew me to the panel was the power of reflection. With this evaluation, we will be able to set a national standard for youth social action projects. This ensures that young people are at the heart of every project and that we're not just targeting the same groups each time.

Young people aren't just the leaders of tomorrow, we're the leaders of today! Equipping young people with the right skills now ensures that the world tomorrow will be a much fairer place. It's essential that we create space for different types of experiences before making decisions that affect young people. Nothing about us without us!

Claire

Young Evaluator, 2021



WHAT WE WILL ASK FROM YOU

We ask that you commit to being a member of the Network from May 2023 – December 2024 although there will be very little asked of you during May and June as we know lots of you will have exams!

However, if these dates and times feel tricky for you, please get in touch with [Hannah Quail](#), Qualitative Research Lead, to discuss further.

This is what you can expect to be doing:

Meet each other	June 2023		<p>We will hold an online session where you will be able to meet each other and be introduced to the project. There will also be an opportunity to ask all the questions you have.</p> <p>Between May and July, we will also reach out to you to help put together an individual learning and development plan so we can make sure you get everything you want from taking part.</p>
Residential 1	7-9 July 2023	Taking place over two days with an option to join for one or two nights – this will be face to face.	<p>This first residential will be about getting to know each other well and the evaluation. Sessions at this residential will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An introduction to research, evaluation, and data • An introduction to the evaluation • Reviewing our engagement plan • Team building and fun! • We will also co-create a group contract, establishing ways of working and mapping our journeys and what you may want to achieve in this project.
Project familiarisation and field visits	July-Aug 2023	Taking place on one day - this will be face to face	<p>Between residential 1 and 2 you will go out and visit an #iwill funder, to gain a better idea of what is happening in different projects</p> <p>These visits might form the basis of a first blog / podcast / vlog – whatever you are most comfortable with.</p>



WHAT WE WILL ASK FROM YOU (cont.)

Residential 2	Oct 2023	Taking place over two days with an option to join for one or two nights – this will be face to face	<p>This residential will be about preparing you to go out and collect some data. Sessions at this residential will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collections methods • Ethical practice – researcher and participant safety • Designing/reviewing data collection tools that will be based on approaches agreed by the study team • Fun activities!
Data Collection	Oct 23-Feb 24	Taking place between 1-2 days a month	<p>During this period, you will receive support and training from us to undertake face-to-face and online qualitative data collection with #iwill funders, delivery partners and young people. We may conduct face-to-face visits and site visits during February half term.</p>
Residential 3	April 2024	Taking place over two days with an option to join for one or two nights – this will be face to face	<p>This residential will be about exploring the data we have collected so far. Sessions at this residential will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding how to analyse data • Exploring the quantitative (numerical) data collected through a data portal that we are designing just for this project* • Analysing our own data and putting it into context with the quantitative data • Thinking about next steps for the qualitative research (e.g., what are we learning, are there any new research questions that are emerging?) <p>*If quantitative data and our data portal are something you are particularly interested in someone from our digital team will be able to sit down with you and talk you through them in more detail.</p>
Follow up	June – Nov 24		<p>During this period there will be monthly meetings where we will discuss the evaluation progress and discuss any outputs like reports or blogs and feedback on ongoing plans.</p>

WHAT WILL I GET FROM TAKING PART?

You will...



Learn about research and evaluation from professionals:

You will work closely with researchers at YMCA George Williams College to help them understand the impact of the #iwill Fund on young people and communities

Develop your knowledge, skills, and experience:

You'll gain valuable skills and experience, including leadership and teamwork, communication, and social research that you can use on your CV and in job applications.



Meet new people:

You'll work alongside other Young Evaluators, the team at the College, and a range of professionals involved in the #iwill Fund. You'll also meet other young people involved in youth social action through your data collection.



Make a difference:

You'll play a key role in learning about and communicating the impact of the #iwill Fund.



Be paid the Living Wage:

You will be paid for any work that you do that an adult would expect to be paid for on top of having all your travel and expenses covered.

HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to apply, please fill in this [short application form](#). This form is in two parts.

Part 1 asks you to provide some key information about who you are. These questions will not be assessed but help us to build a diverse and balanced team.

Part 2 asks you to upload an application. You can choose to apply in one of two ways:

- a. In writing: A short written statement, 500 words maximum! (Word or PDF file)
- b. Video/audio: Create a short video/sound recording (no more than three minutes long)

If neither of these options work for you, please get in touch with [Hannah Quail](#), Qualitative Research Lead, and we will do our best to make sure you are able to apply in the way that works best for you.

In your written statement or video/audio, we want you to tell us:

- Who you are (your name, where you live, what you are doing in life – are you at school or college or working, or something else?)
- Your experiences of participating in youth social action (with #iwill or beyond)
- Why you want to join the Young Evaluators Network
- What would be interesting for you to learn about the impact of #iwill Fund projects (youth social action projects) on young people and their communities?

HOW TO APPLY

The deadline for applications is **11 June 2023**. Please complete and submit the application form, including uploading your written statement or video/audio file, or get in touch with us to arrange an alternative way of applying. If you encounter any difficulties applying please let us know and we will do our best to help.

If you would like to chat about this opportunity before you apply, please get in touch with [Hannah Quail](#) to schedule a friendly call.

What happens next?

- When you apply, we will confirm we have received your application via email.
- Applicants will be shortlisted by our team. We will be selecting people to ensure that there is a range of different experiences and a balanced group in terms of age, gender, and background. We are not solely selecting people on their skills or experience but also their enthusiasm to be involved.
- We'll get in touch to let you know if you've been shortlisted by **16 June 2023**.
- To find out more about how your data is stored and processed, please click [here](#).

**Good luck with
your application!**

ABOUT YMCA GEORGE WILLIAMS COLLEGE

Following the merger with the Centre for Youth Impact in 2022, the new YMCA George Williams College brings together all the knowledge of the Centre with the rich history of the College. At YMCA George Williams College, our vision is for a just and equitable society that invests in support for all young people to learn, grow, and explore their relationships with the world around them.

In 2021, the Centre formed its first Young Evaluators Panel, as part of our evaluation into the impact of youth voice within the #iwill Fund. Our panel played an active role in shaping the evaluation through analysing existing evidence; collecting new data to bolster the evidence base; and supporting the development of the final reports and best practice guidance.

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